

Tab Divider #1--- Working Together

*The planned actions for the
Press Park/Gordon Plaza neighborhood
will require the efforts of many people working together.
This portion of the Guide describes the overall plan
for the project and the government groups
and companies that will be working
in your neighborhood throughout the project.*

1. Working Together

Section 1: Benefits and Activities

The project produces benefits to residents:

- Provides a healthier environment
- Improves economy with preference for hiring people and buying services locally
- Enhances the neighborhood with replacement of landscaping and sidewalks

The activities planned for the Press Park/Gordon Plaza area will be funded with an estimated \$20 million. The EPA will address the environmental concerns caused by the landfill in the residential area by excavating and removing the contaminated surface soils, replacing with clean soil, and landscaping. The nearby, undeveloped properties will not be excavated, but we will install a containment cover consisting of geotextile fabric and clean soil.

Benefits

The EPA is making four commitments to benefit the community during the activities:

1. Maintain the highest levels of health and safety standards that protect the residents and workers in the neighborhood.
2. Perform work with as little disruption to residents and community activities as possible.
3. Prefer hiring of local labor as well as use of local businesses and vendors for services required.
4. Provide a Resident Services Program during the project to help people with concerns about their property and their neighborhood.

For those property owners who participate in the project, the EPA will, upon completion of the work, provide a certificate stating that the response action on the property has been successfully completed.

There will be a number of other benefits to the neighborhood from the project's activities. For example, debris in the undeveloped property will be removed as needed, and the property will be graded, clean fill installed, and the land seeded.

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Project Activities

The project will be organized into four construction phases:

- Community Center
- Undeveloped 48 Acres
- Press Park and Gordon Plaza Apartments and Shopping Center
- Gordon Plaza Subdivision

A rodent control program will be initiated prior to construction on the undeveloped 48 acres. Based on resident concerns, the EPA has developed an enhanced rodent control program to ensure that project activities do not cause rodent populations to move into residential areas. We have retained the services of a nationally recognized rodent control expert in order to provide the most effective measures that will safely control the rodent populations. He has visited the neighborhood and developed a comprehensive program.

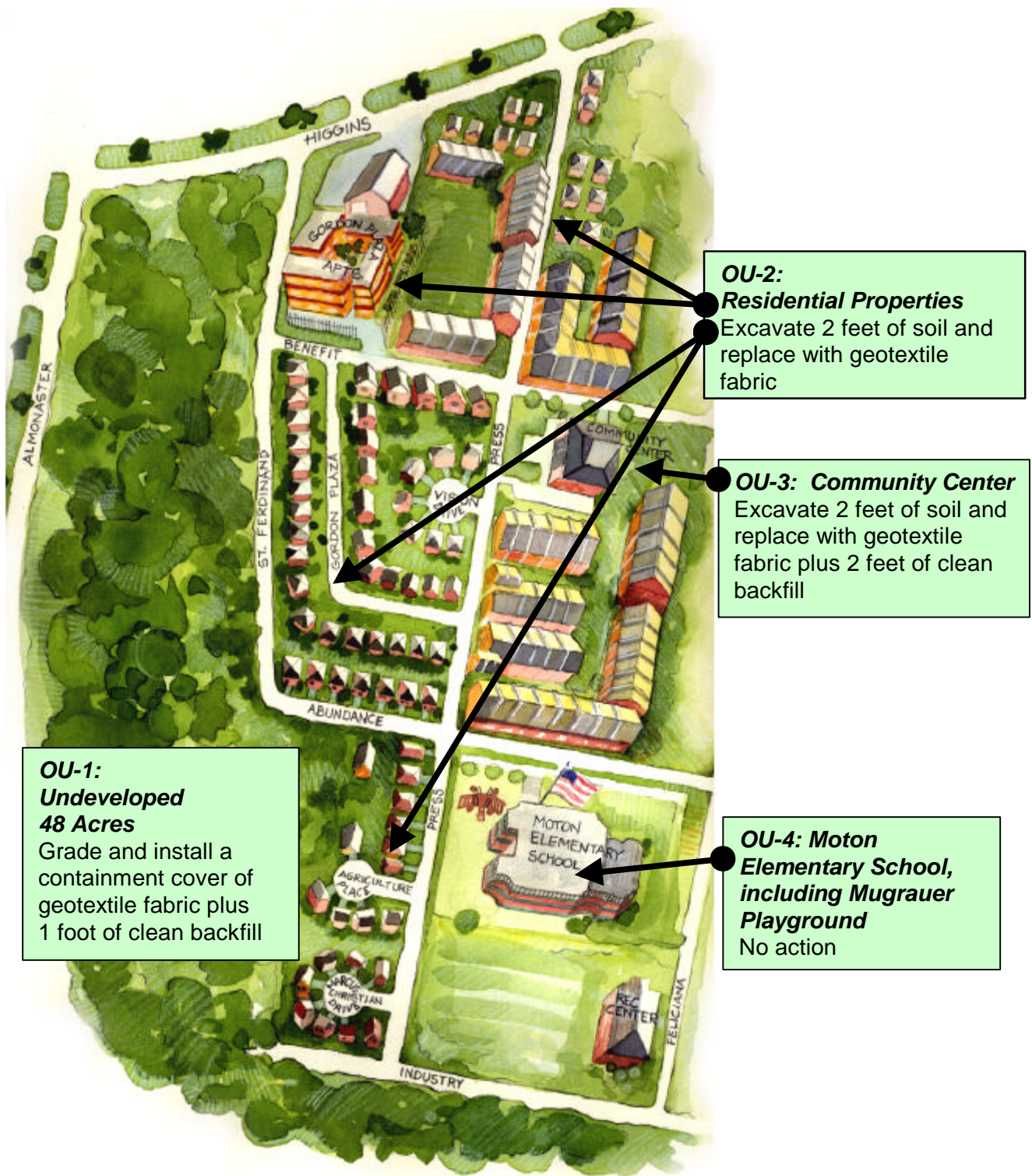
The first phase of construction will begin at the Community Center. The excavation and other exterior work will be coordinated with the Community Center's previously planned interior renovation program. The Community Center will benefit from a healthier play area for children as well as the installation of new playground equipment to replace equipment that was previously removed.

Activities on the undeveloped 48 acres will start shortly after first phase construction begins. Debris and brush will be cleared to prepare the land for grading and installation of a containment cover.

Soil removal activities in the residential area are planned to begin shortly after work at the Community Center is completed. Before that work begins, property owners will receive a request for access that will include additional information.

As we further define our schedule, we will communicate specific dates for activities to you.

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**Four Construction Phases to Provide a Healthier Environment
for Press Park / Gordon Plaza Residents**

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Section 2: Protecting Residents and Workers

Safe work practices are our Number 1 priority.

We will:

- Maintain the highest level of health and safety standards to protect residents and workers
- Establish safe storage areas for equipment away from your children
- Work with parents to keep children away from work areas during the day
- Minimize vehicular traffic on residential streets
- Apply dust control methods and air monitoring during soil excavation

The safety of the residents of the community and our workers at this site is the top priority of the EPA for this project. The commitment to high standards for health and safety is based on the strong safety records which the EPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps), and International Technology Corp. (IT Corp.) have established. IT Corp. (formerly OHM Remediation Services Corp. prior to a merger in March 1998) has the best safety record of any company in the nation performing these types of environmental projects.

Safety of Children

We recognize that construction sites and construction equipment can be very fascinating to children. In order to discourage children from entering construction areas, temporary fences will be installed, and warning signs will be posted. We plan to provide a number of supervised times when residents and children can get a close look at some of the heavy equipment that will be used. We will also explain the safety rules that we will follow to protect the residents during actual project activities. We will move equipment into safe storage every evening.

Traffic Control

Traffic safety is a top priority. We will take the following steps to ensure that our trucks and other vehicles operate safely in your neighborhood:

Safe Drivers. Drivers of trucks and heavy equipment have experience and are screened prior to employment.

Speed Limits. Area speed limits will be established at or below posted legal limits for our drivers. We will strictly enforce our traffic rules.

Traffic Routes. Routes will be established which will keep vehicles on main roads (such as Higgins, Almonaster and Louisa) as much as possible and off residential streets whenever we can. We will provide traffic safety guards around work areas during the times that children are going to and from school in order to assure an extra measure of protection for them. Information on truck routes will be provided as it becomes available.

Safe Vehicles. Vehicles will be routinely inspected for safety and covered to eliminate concerns about soil spillage.

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Soil Safety Steps

The following controls will be used to protect the community and to address concerns about exposure to contaminated soil during excavation activities:

Soil Removal. Once excavation has begun, we will generally move excavated soil out of yards and common areas on the same day that it is excavated. Any uncompleted excavated areas will be covered at the end of each day.



Dust control procedures include moistening soil.

Dust Control. During excavation, soil will be moistened in order to minimize airborne dust.

Air Monitoring. An air monitoring plan will be developed and placed in the Outreach Office prior to the beginning of excavation activities. The plan will include real time air monitoring to indicate levels of airborne dust. Air sampling will also be conducted to identify levels of contaminants in any airborne dust. Results of air sampling available in the Outreach Office.

will be

Runoff and Erosion. During the removal action, we will ensure that exposed soils are not washed away by rain. Our goal is to put clean soils and new grass in place as soon as we can. By doing this quickly, we will minimize disruption to the neighborhood. An erosion control technical paper will be available soon in the Outreach Office. The technical paper will provide additional information on the erosion control methods.

Rodent Control

Information on the rodent control program will be available in the Outreach Office, and fliers will be distributed throughout the community. Control of rodent populations will be initiated prior to the start of field activities and will continue as necessary throughout the project.

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Site Security

It is standard practice at our projects to establish security measures to protect equipment and offices. We will maintain security, which could include guards, during all phases of work. We do not anticipate leaving equipment at private residences overnight. All equipment will be stored in an equipment parking area. However, security guards will be on duty 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will patrol the areas where equipment is located as well as those locations where work is in progress.

Worker Protective Equipment

Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that environmental workers wear personal protective equipment. It may not be uncommon to see workers wearing hard hats; disposable, protective clothing, and steel-toed boots. Respirators may be required for workers during some activities at this site. Once the Health and Safety Plan for the project is developed, it will be available in the Outreach Office.



Personal protective equipment will be required.

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Section 3: Government Groups and Companies

***The three groups working
on this project are:***

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: The Lead Federal Agency
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Project Management
- International Technology Corp.: Removal Action Work

As part of its responsibility for the successful completion of the project, the EPA has hired the Corps to manage the project. International Technology Corp. (IT Corp.), a contractor secured by the Corps, will perform the work in your neighborhood. Very soon, you will begin seeing environmental workers in your neighborhood.

The EPA

The EPA has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions involving the project. Personnel from the EPA Region 6 office in Dallas will make sure all site work meets Federal requirements. There will be an EPA representative on site daily.



The Corps

The Corps has the responsibility to manage the day-to-day operations of the construction activities. Several New Orleans District Corps employees will be working in your neighborhood. They will direct the contractor performing the field work.



IT Corp.

IT Corp. will perform soil excavation, land clearing, field sampling and analysis, health and safety management, project accounting, procurement of local vendors, and other administrative and support functions. IT Corp. has extensive experience and expertise with removal actions at private residences. IT Corp. also has established the best safety record of any company in the nation in the environmental services business.



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Section 4: Job and Local Business Opportunities

Job and local business hires increase economic benefits to the community:

- Estimated \$5 million for subcontract services
- Clerical and construction job opportunities with IT Corp.
- Worker training
- Local small business opportunities



Department of Defense Environmental Small Business Excellence Award recognizes IT's small business subcontracting achievements.

The EPA is committed to hiring local people and businesses to provide skills and services required for the project. This preference supports the cooperative spirit of this project by increasing the economic benefits to the community. The EPA has directed the Corps and IT Corp. to provide the maximum possible opportunities for employment and subcontract services.

Job Opportunities

The work to be done requires a variety of skills to support and perform the field operations. Besides the technical skills such as equipment operation, this project also requires clerical, accounting, and administrative support and other capabilities. IT Corp. will be responsible for all hiring that takes place on this project. The following table lists the types of job opportunities that are available and qualifications for these jobs:

Job Opportunities		
Position	Education / Experience	Special Requirements
Project Clerk	HS Diploma or GED; Ability to use PC; familiar with MS Office for Windows 95	
Equipment Operator	HS Diploma or GED	40 hour OSHA HAZWOPER training, with current; 3+ years experience operating heavy equipment
Recovery Technician	HS Diploma or GED	40 hour OSHA HAZWOPER training, with current updates and current medical screening
Mechanics	Experience in maintaining industrial and process equipment, such as pumps, motors, compressors, valves, HVAC systems, etc.	
Welders	Certified pipe/structural welders; 3-5 years experience performing welding, cutting, and fitting for similar and dissimilar metals with process equipment	
Laborer		

All candidates are required to pass pre-employment physicals and drug/alcohol screening. Must possess a valid driver's license. Experience in hazardous waste or industrial plant setting preferred.

Most positions will require the successful completion of the 40-Hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration Hazardous Waste Worker Safety Training as well as a drug-testing program. We will provide an update to this guide with information regarding the employment application process.

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Local Business Opportunities

This project also requires a large number of local business services. It is estimated that \$5 million will be spent for these subcontracted services throughout the duration of the project. The table on the following page describes the kinds of companies that will be hired to work on the project.

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Local Business Opportunities	
Subcontract Need	Special Requirements
Plumbing	Bonded; primarily disconnect and reconnect household service from municipal to homes; sewer connections from municipal service to homes; temporary sewer hookups during excavations
Electrical	Bonded; primarily disconnect and reconnect household service from Entergy to homes
Concrete Delivery and Finishing	Driveway and sidewalk forming, pouring, and finishing
HVAC	Bonded; primarily disconnect/reconnect/ repair of household HVAC units
Asphalt Delivery	Delivery and placement/preparation of asphalt parking lot areas; striping/stenciling of newly placed asphalt
Trucking	Pickup and delivery of clean fill for residential and undeveloped properties
Clearing/Grubbing	Clearing/grubbing of undeveloped properties
Painting	Bonded; residential repair work incidental to removal actions
Fuel	Diesel fuel for heavy equipment
Landscaping	Degreed or certified landscape architect to design/plan reestablishment of yards and plantings; supply sod, trees, shrubs, plants, mulch, fertilizer, topsoil necessary to support plantings; provide directions to homeowners for care of new landscaping
Office Supplies	Provide full range of office supplies
Drinking Water	Provide coolers and bottled water for site use
Security	Provide physical security for site, to include patrols and remote sensing capabilities as required
Surveying	Provide services as required to establish plot and property boundaries, etc.

Any local business which wants to be pre-qualified to work on the project should contact Bob Clarke, IT Corp. Project Manager, Phone: (504) 248-2020

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